



HIGHLIGHTS:
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Off-farm stocks totaled 49.5 million bushels, 3 percent above a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during December 2003 - February 2004 totaled 24.2 million bushels, compared with 20.9 million bushels for the same period a year ago.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Utah: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-March 2004, compared with February 2004, were down for barley, alfalfa hay, and other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for February 2004 was \$106.00 per cwt, up \$13.00 from March 2003. The February 2004 sheep price, at \$36.00, was \$1.00 below March 2003.

Barley, at \$2.48 per bushel, was down 26 cents from the previous month's price and 10 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$75.00 per ton, down \$3.00 from last month and \$15.00 below last year. Other hay, at \$62.00 per ton, was \$4.00 lower than last month and \$1.00 lower than March 2003.

United States: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is 6 points (5.2 percent) above the February Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 8 points (7.1 percent) from February while the All Crops Index increased 4 points (3.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, milk, and eggs. Lower prices were received for lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, and asparagus. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and onions. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 points (23 percent) from March 2003.

The Food Commodities Index increased 7 points (6.0 percent) from last month to 123. The index stands 27 points (28 percent) above March 2003.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004 ¹	Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004 ¹
Livestock & Products							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	93.00	106.00	(²)	97.10	107.00	(²)
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	37.00	36.00	(²)	40.90	41.20	(²)
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.58	2.74	2.48	2.83	2.72	2.71
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	90.00	78.00	75.00	96.70	84.70	85.90
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	63.00	66.00	62.00	77.90	69.90	70.90

¹ Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month.

² March data will be published next month.

UNITED STATES: Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2004 totaled 5.27 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2003. Of the total stocks, 3.03 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.24 billion bushels, are up 2 percent from the previous year. The December 2003 - February 2004 indicated disappearance is 2.68 billion bushels, compared with 2.51 billion bushels during the same period last year.

All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2004 totaled 1.02 billion bushels, up 12 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 258 million bushels, up 9 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 761 million bushels, are up 14 percent from a year ago. The indicated disappearance during December 2003 - February 2004 is 501 million bushels, up 21 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2004 totaled 151 million bushels, up 23 percent from March 1, 2003. On-farm stocks are estimated at 51.7 million bushels, 41 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 99.8 million bushels, are 15 percent above March 1, 2003. Indicated disappearance during the December 2003 - February 2004 quarter totaled 46.4 million bushels, down fractionally from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2004 totaled 95.1 million bushels, 15 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2003. Of the total stocks on hand, 45.6 million bushels are stored on farms, 30 percent higher than a year ago.

Planting Intentions

UTAH, farm operators, as of March 1, 2004, intend to plant the same level of oats, but less barley, spring wheat, winter wheat, and all wheat than last year. Corn, and dry edible beans will see an increase according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. If growers current intentions are realized, Utah farmers will plant 50,000 acres of barley, down 5,000 acres planted in 2003. Intentions for corn at 61,000 acres, was up 6,000 acres from 2003. Oat intentions were estimated at 65,000 acres, same level as 2003. All wheat was estimated at 153,000 acres, 22,000 acres less than last year. Other spring wheat planting is expected to total 13,000 acres, 2,000 acres less than the previous year's level. Winter wheat planted, at 140,000 acres, is down 20,000 acres from last year. Planting intentions for dry edible beans are 6,000 acres, an increase of 400 acres from last year. Harvesting intentions for all hay are 700,000 acres, the same as last year.

UNITED STATES, corn growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2004, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003. Acres seeded and to be seeded for oats in 2004 are expected to total 4.31 million acres, down 6 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.07 million acres for grain, down 7 percent from the 2003 harvested acreage of 2.22 million. Growers intend to plant 4.68 million acres of barley in 2004, down 12 percent from last year. Planted area of winter wheat for the 2004 crop is 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Growers intend to plant 13.3 million acres of other spring wheat this year, down 4 percent from 2003. Producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres of all hay in 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Prospective 2004 planting of dry beans in the U.S. totals 1.33 million acres, down 5 percent from last year and 31 percent below two years ago.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.98 million head on March 1, 2004. The inventory was up 4 percent from the 10.55 million head on March 1, 2003 but 5 percent below March 1, 2002. **Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 11 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.54 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600

pounds were 319,000, 600-699 pounds were 351,000, 700-799 pounds were 548,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 392,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.69 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002. **Other disappearance** totaled 69,000 during February, 3 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000 + Capacity Feedlots, United States, March 1, 2002- 2004

Item	Number			2004 as % of	
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003
..... 1,000 Head				Percent
On Feed Feb 1 ¹	11,572	10,700	*11,128	96	104
Placed on Feed during Feb	1,810	1,650	1,610	89	98
Fed Cattle Marketed during Feb.	1,801	1,733	1,692	94	98
Other Disappearance during Feb ²	63	71	69	110	97
On Feed Mar 1 ¹	11,518	10,546	10,977	95	104

* Revised ¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: Commercial red meat production totaled 30.7 million pounds in February 2004, 20.7 percent below February the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for February 2004 totaled 40,200 head, 18.3 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,188 pounds, down 49 pounds from February 2003. **Hog slaughter** totaled 3,700 head, 19.4 percent above February 2003. The average live weight was 211 pounds was the same as the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during February 2004 totaled 2,700 head, the same as the previous year. Average live weight, at 133 pounds, was up 9 pounds from the previous year.

UNITED STATES: for the United States totaled 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 3 percent from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2003. **Beef production**, at 1.80 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 6 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was down 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,233 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 14.5 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,500 head, down 14 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was 19 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.57 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year and a new record high for February. Hog kill totaled 7.89 million head, 3 percent above February 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound

above the previous year, at 268 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter,

February 2003-2004 ¹

Item	Utah		United States	
	February		February	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Production (Million Pounds)				
Red Meat	38.7	30.7	3,496.1	3,403.4
Number Slaughtered (Thousand Head)				
Cattle	49.2	40.2	2,569.2	2,427.0
Calves	1	1	83.1	71.5
Hogs	3.1	3.7	7,686.1	7,886.1
Sheep & Lamb	2.7	2.7	226.3	213.0
Average Live Weight (Pounds)				
Cattle	1,237	1,188	1,261	1,233
Calves	1	1	317	336
Hogs	211	211	267	268
Sheep & Lamb	124	133	133	139

¹ Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2004, was 59.3 million head. This was 2 percent above March 1, 2003, but 2 percent below December 1, 2003. **Breeding inventory**, at 5.92 million head, was down 2 percent from March 1, 2003, and down 1 percent from last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 53.4 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter. **The December 2003 - February 2004 U.S. pig crop**, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 2003, and up slightly from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.81 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.85 for the December 2003 - February 2004 period, compared to 8.81 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. February Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.89 billion during February 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 5.89 billion table eggs, and 1.00 billion hatching eggs, of which 948 million were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2004 averaged 339 million, down slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,033 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2003. February 2004 contained 29 days due to the leap year. Both February 2004 and February 2003 contained 20 weekdays, 1 holiday, and 4 Saturdays.

Layers & Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type, United States, February-March 2003- 04

Item	2003 ^{1/}	2004	2004as % 2003
Layers during Feb (Thousand)			
All Layers	340,575	338,948	100
Table Egg Type	281,034	280,057	100
Hatching Egg Type	59,541	58,891	99
Eggs per 100 Layers during Feb (Number)			
All Layers	1,957	2,033	104
Table Egg Type	2,019	2,103	104
Hatching Egg Type	1,664	1,701	102
Eggs produced during Feb (Million)			
All Layers	6,665	6,891	103
Table Egg Type	5,673	5,890	104
Hatching Egg Type	991	1,002	101
Item	2003 ^{1/}	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Layers on Mar 1 (Thousand)			
All Layers	340,080	339,782	100
Table Egg Type	280,082	280,529	100
Hatching Egg Type	59,998	59,253	99
Eggs per 100 Layers on Mar 1 (Number)			
All Layers	69.8	70.5	101

^{1/} Revised.

U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

Frozen Food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on January 31, 2004 were below last year's levels for poultry, red meat, and orange juice concentrate. Butter stocks were up 45 percent from last month, but 29 percent below last year. **Total red meat supplies** in freezers were 9 percent above last month, but 5 percent below January 31, 2003. Frozen pork stocks were 9 percent above last month's levels but only slightly below last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 29 percent from last month and up 78 percent from last year. **Total frozen poultry supplies** on January 31, 2004 were down 2 percent from last month, and down 20 percent from last year. Total stocks of chicken were down 13 percent from last month, and down 26 percent from a year ago. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 16 percent from last month, but down 9 percent from January 31, 2003.

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States			
Commodity	Feb 28, 2003	Jan 31, 2004	Feb 29, 2004
1,000 Pounds			
Total Frozen			
Eggs	17,127	21,304	21,143
Chicken	672,785	534,901	543,583
Turkey	492,737	420,466	476,855
Total Poultry	1,170,657	956,851	1,021,766
Cherries, Tart			
RTP	38,699	60,825	51,193
Juice	1,594	1,308	1,610
Cherries, Sweet	6,817	6,039	6,325
Potatoes	1,210,975	1,167,259	1,208,573
Beef	441,855	434,354	436,398
Pork	519,713	510,514	483,609
Lamb & Mutton	4,063	3,671	3,355
Total Meat	978,249	960,112	934,743
Total in Storage			
Apples, Fresh ..	2,964,414	3,382,961	2,846,931
Butter	239,879	152,448	157,915
Cheese, Natural			
American	538,833	518,113	533,114
Swiss	23,151	25,244	25,361
Other Natural .	208,024	213,575	208,418